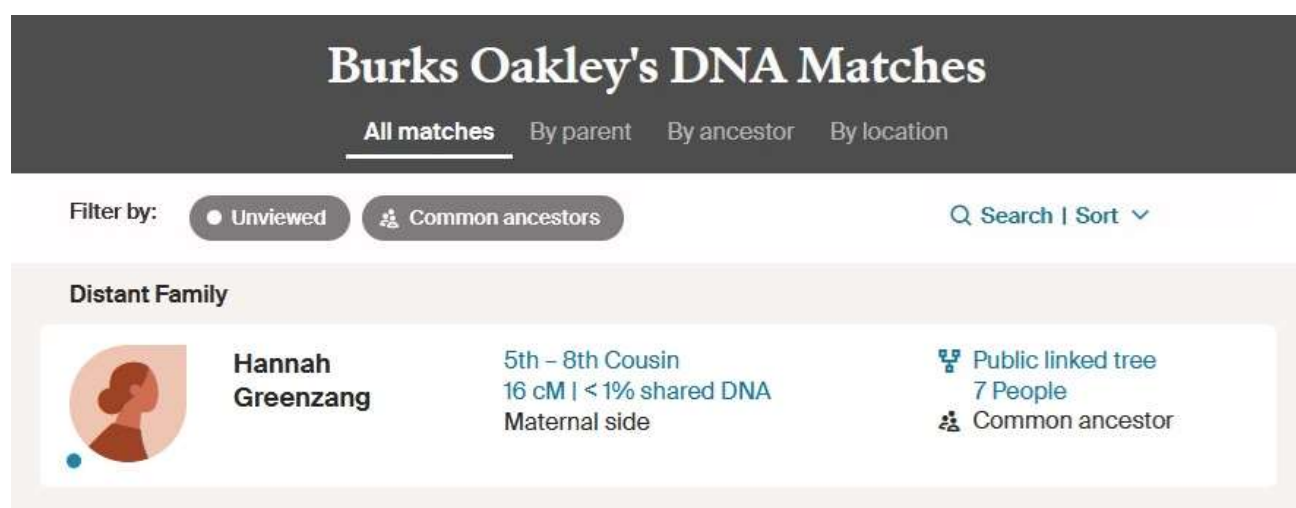


My New DNA Match with Hannah Greenzang – Going back to my Swedish roots in Fjärås

By Burks Oakley II
23 August 2024

Several days ago, I looked on the Ancestry.com website to see if I had any new DNA matches. I filtered my list of DNA matches so that I only viewed a match if I had not seen it previously (“Unviewed”) AND if software on the site was able to identify that the match and I had a set of ancestors in common (“Common ancestors”). Most days when I do this, I don’t see any new DNA matches that meet these criteria. However, that day I was pleased to see that I had a new DNA match with a woman named Hannah Greenzang:



The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'All matches' (selected), 'By parent', 'By ancestor', and 'By location'. Below this, there are filter buttons for 'Unviewed' (selected) and 'Common ancestors'. A search and sort option is visible on the right. The main content area is titled 'Distant Family' and features a match card for Hannah Greenzang. The card includes a profile picture placeholder, the name 'Hannah Greenzang', and the following details: '5th – 8th Cousin', '16 cM | < 1% shared DNA', and 'Maternal side'. To the right of the name, there are icons for 'Public linked tree' (7 People) and 'Common ancestor'.

Hannah and I share 16 cM of DNA, which means we are likely to be very distant cousins. Note that software on Ancestry.com found that Hannah is related to me on my mother’s side of my family, and all four of my mother’s grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880’s.

This match immediately stood out, since in the summer of 2021, I had done some in-depth research about my DNA match with a woman named Ginger Greenzang. Since **Greenzang** is a fairly unique name, my guess was that Hannah and Ginger are related.

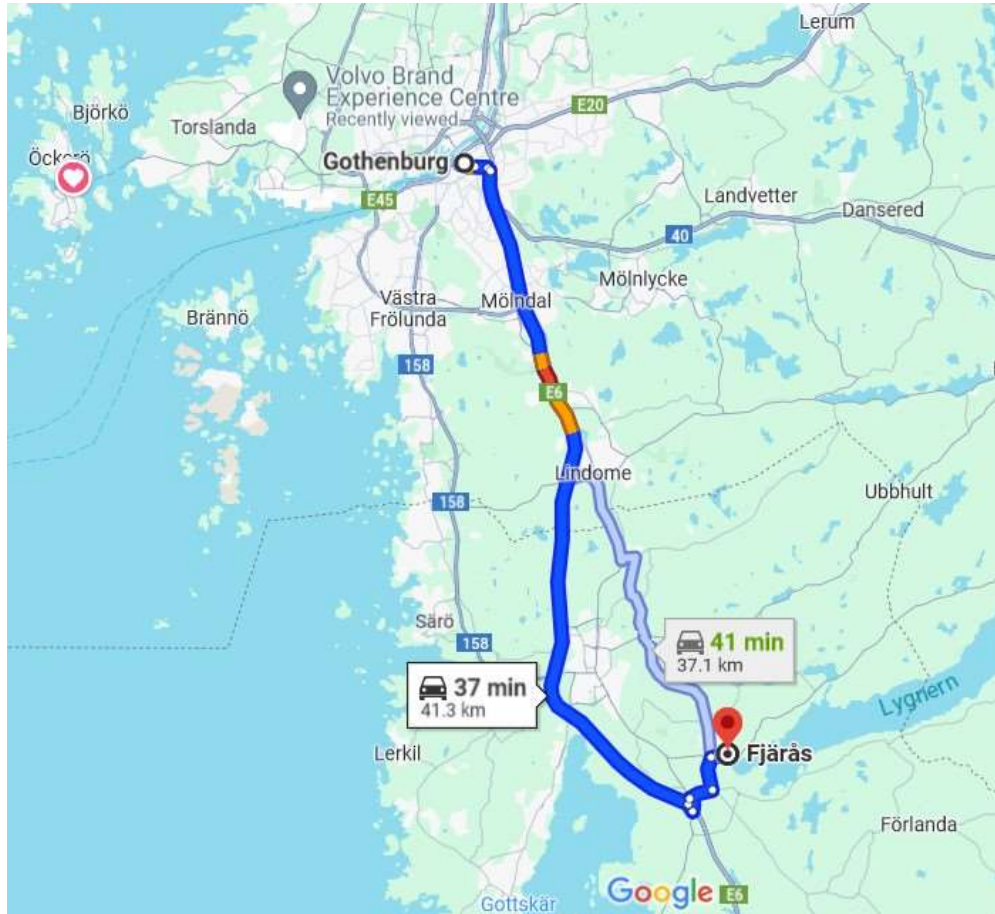
I wrote a narrative about my DNA match with Ginger Greenzang:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/GingerWalgren-HanssonCousin.pdf>

Ginger’s maiden name was **Walgren** (a good Swedish surname), so I referred to her as Ginger Walgren in that narrative.

Ginger and I are both descended from Lars Hansson (1788-1838) and his wife Anna Börjesdotter (1795-1869). Lars and Anna lived their entire lives in Fjärås, Halland County, Sweden.

Fjärås is located on the west coast of Sweden, about 40 km south of Göteborg:



I have visited Fjärås multiple times since my first visit in the summer of 2016. One of the main landmarks in Fjärås is the church:



We had an old photograph of this church hanging on the wall of our apartment in Euclid, Ohio, when I was growing up.

One of my mother's Swedish grandfathers was Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), and he was born in Fjärås and lived there until he immigrated to America in 1887.

OK, Burks – but what about your DNA match with Hannah Greenzang?

Like Ginger Greenzang, Hannah Greenzang and I are both descended from Lars Hansson (1788-1838) and his wife Anna Börjesdotter (1795-1869):

How are you and Hannah Greenzang related?


Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Hannah Greenzang. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

Hannah Greenzang could be your 4th cousin 1x removed through:

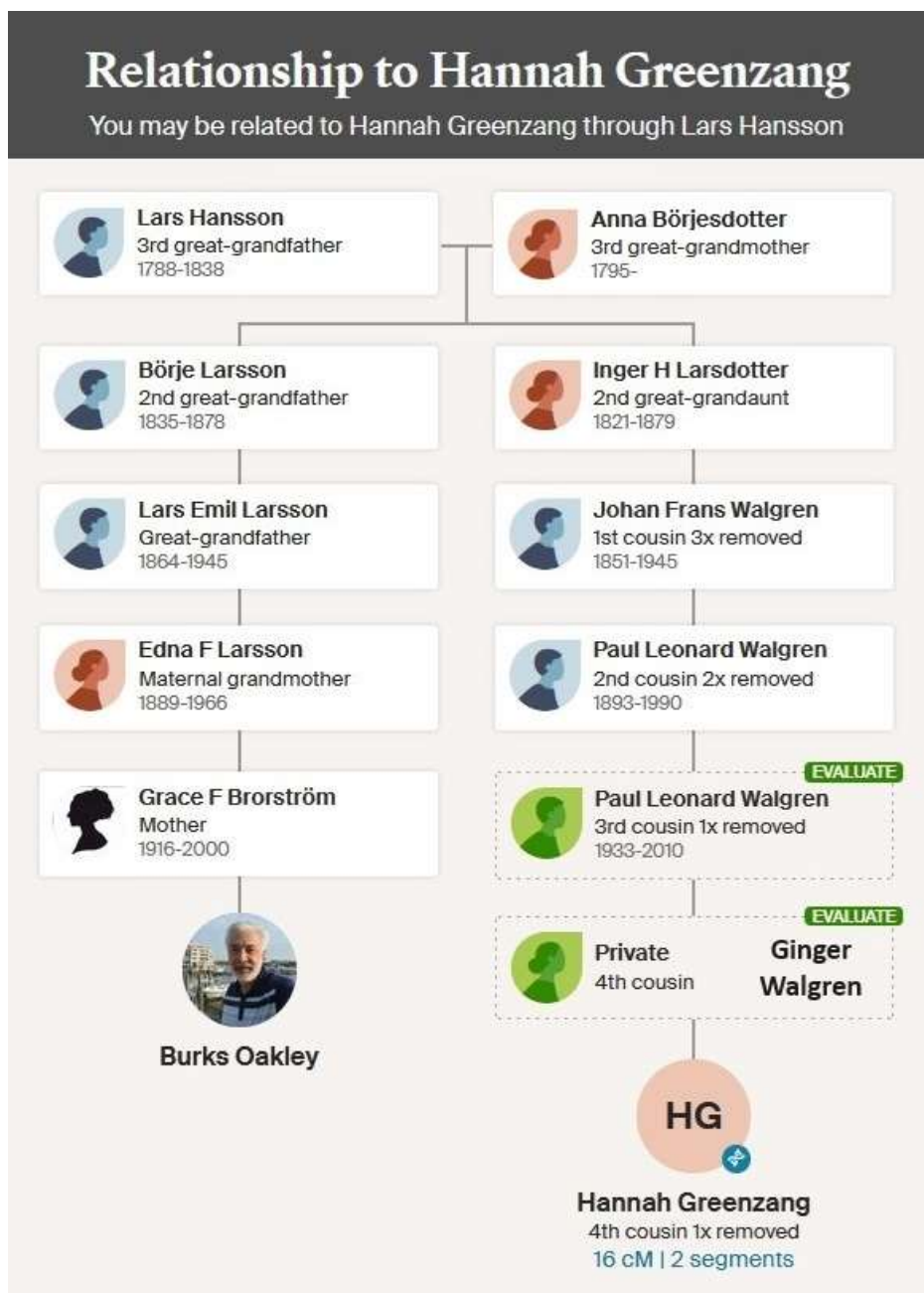


Lars Hansson
3rd great-grandfather
1788-1838
[View Relationship](#)



Anna Börjesdotter
3rd great-grandmother
1795-
[View Relationship](#)

Here is a chart showing how we both are descended from this couple:

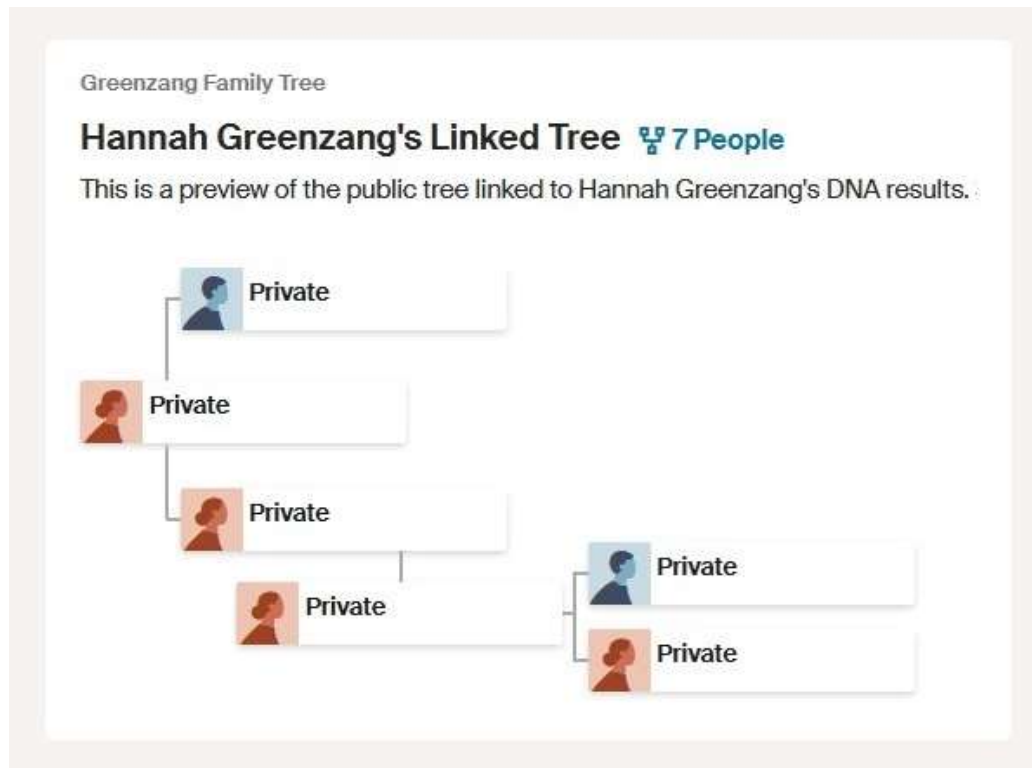


Hannah is descended from the Hansson-Börjesdotter couple through their daughter Inger Helena Larsdotter (1821-1879), while I am descended from this couple through their son Börje Larsson (1835-1878). Based on this chart, Hannah and I are fourth-cousins once-removed.

Note that in the chart on the previous page, Hannah's maternal grandfather was Paul Leonard Walgren (1933-2010). In my earlier research about my DNA match with Ginger Greenzang (née Walgren), I found that Paul L. Walgren was Ginger's father. Based on these relationships, I conclude that Ginger is Hannah's mother.

My DNA match with Ginger is 83 cM, and my DNA match with Hannah is 16 cM. The former is larger than average for fourth-cousins, and the latter is smaller than average for fourth-cousins once-removed.¹ Go figure!

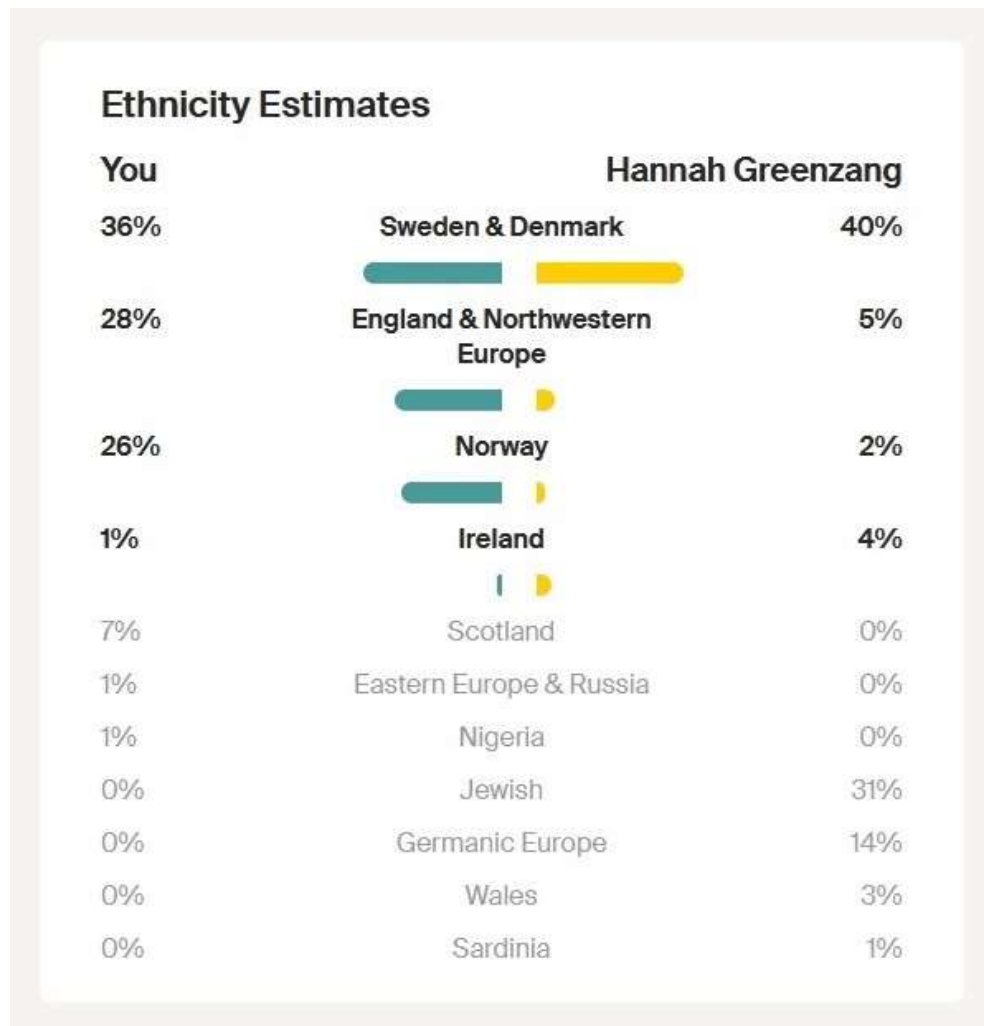
I find it interesting that software on Ancestry.com was able to connect Hannah back to her fourth-great grandparents in Fjärås, Sweden, since her family tree on Ancestry.com is very limited:



The fact that Hannah just showed up as having common ancestors might mean that someone edited a family tree on Ancestry.com, which provided the link from her mother (who doesn't have a family tree) to her maternal grandfather.

I went on to look at Hannah's ethnicity estimates:

¹ According to Bettinger's Shared cM Project ver. 4.0, the average for fourth-cousins is 35 cM and the average for fourth-cousins once-removed is 28 cM.



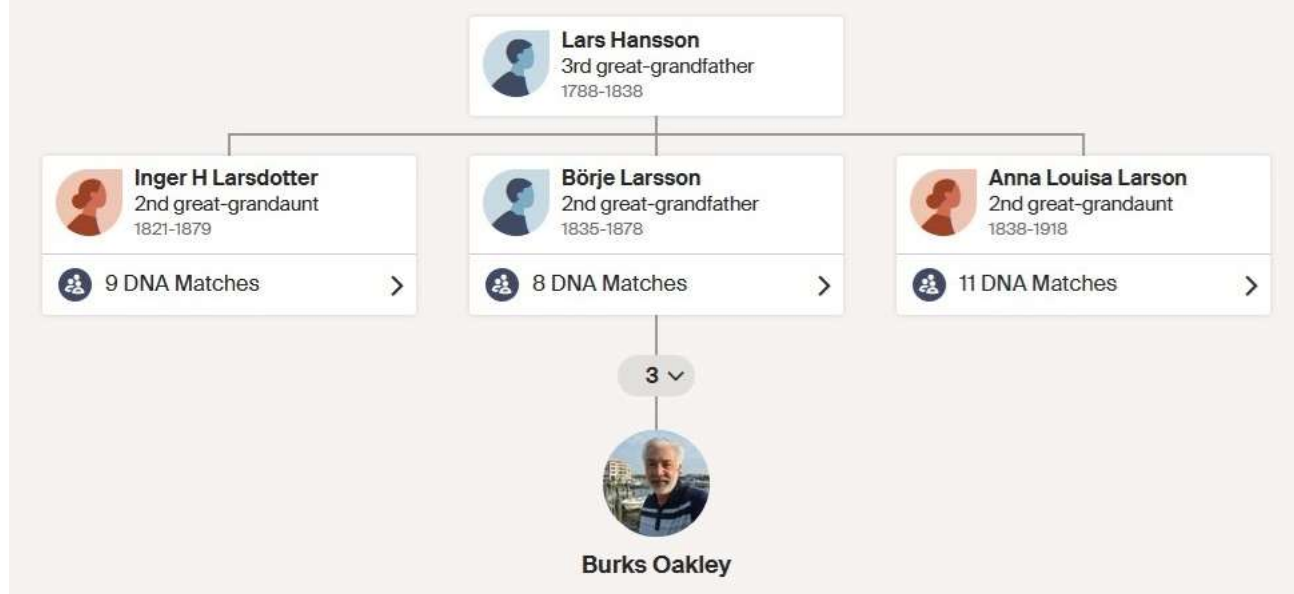
Given Hannah's Swedish roots in Fjärås (and who knows what other Swedish ancestors she had), it was not surprising to learn that her ethnicity includes 40% Sweden & Denmark. I note that Hannah is also 31% Jewish and 14% Germanic Europe, and this certainly could be the contribution from her father (a Mr. Michael Greenzang).²

Finally, I went on to look at the ThruLines® charts for Lars Hansson and his wife Anna Börjesdotter, who are the ancestors that Hannah and I have in common. Here is the ThruLines® chart for Lars Hansson:

² A Google search on the **Greenzang** name turned up an obituary for Fred Greenzang, who appears to be Ginger's father-in-law: <https://www.starofdavidmemorialchapelnj.com/obituaries/Fred-Greenzang?obId=27296459> Fred's immediate ancestors were Jewish immigrants from Russia. And Fred was an extremely successful electrical engineer. Impressive!

ThruLines® for Lars Hansson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 28 DNA matches through Lars Hansson.



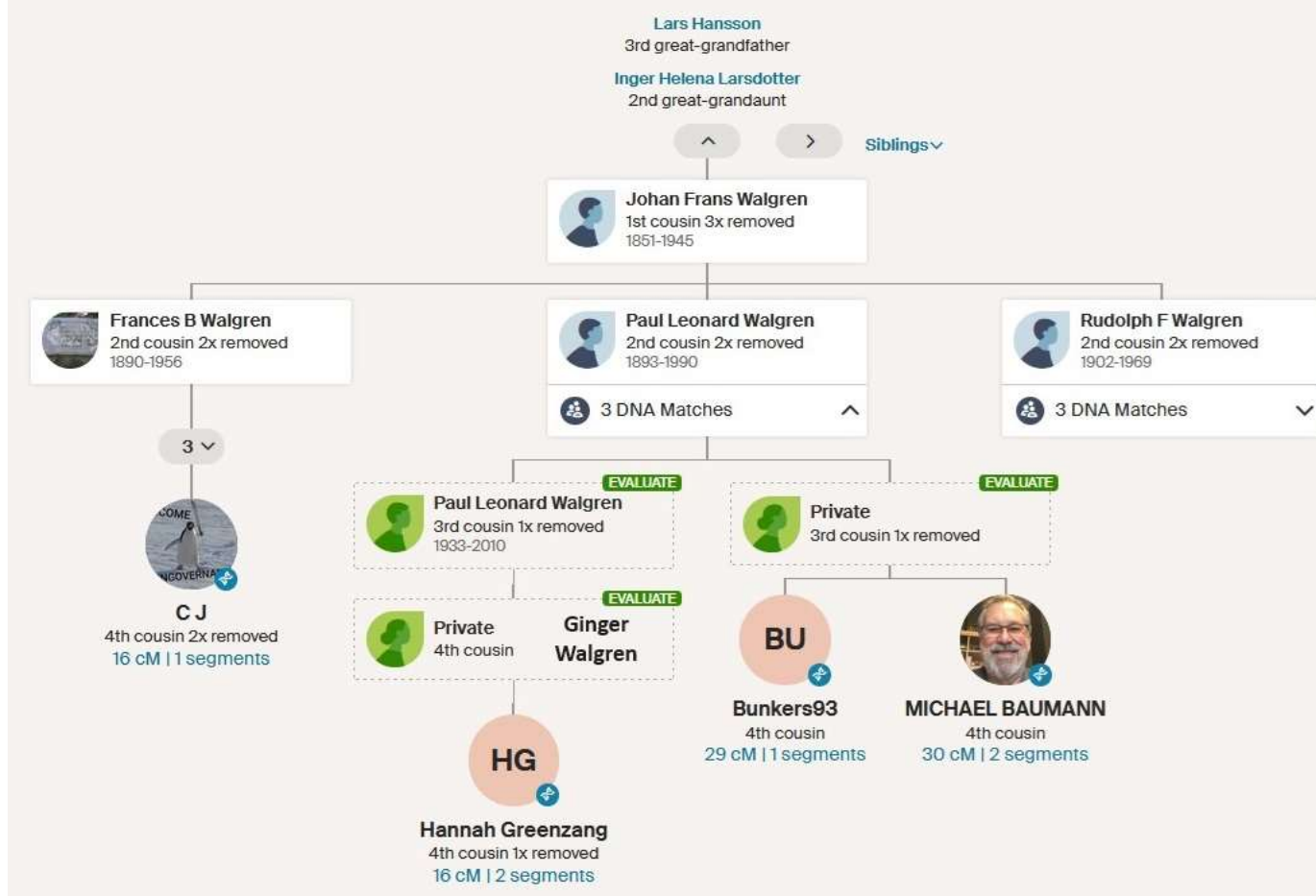
I was amazed to see that I now have DNA matches with 28 descendants of Lars Hansson (I should add that the ThruLines® chart for Lars' wife, Anna, looks identical to this chart).

According to this chart, I have DNA matches with nine descendants of Lars' daughter Inger Helena Larsdotter, and I have DNA matches with eleven descendants of Lars' daughter Anna Louisa Larsson.

Here is the part of my ThruLines® chart for Lars Hansson that connects to Hannah Greenzang:

ThruLines® for Lars Hansson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 28 DNA matches through Lars Hansson.



Note that I have a DNA match with Hannah's mother, Ginger Walgren (married name Greenzang) – although this DNA match doesn't show up in the chart, presumably because Ginger doesn't have her DNA linked to a family tree on the Ancestry.com website. I also have DNA matches with Ginger's first-cousins, **Bunkers93** and Michael Baumann.

Summary

In this brief narrative, I have discussed several aspects of my new DNA match with Hannah Greenzang. I always enjoy finding a new DNA match going back to Fjärås, Sweden – a small village that I have enjoyed visiting over the years. I guess that in some way, when I am in Fjärås, I feel like I am at home.

At this point, I should strongly recommend to anyone who has read this far that they should go back and read my narrative about my DNA match with Ginger Greenzang – I'm actually quite impressed with how I figured out how Ginger and I are related!

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/GingerWalgren-HanssonCousin.pdf>

I wonder if Hannah has any idea about her Swedish ancestry – and where her 40% Sweden & Denmark ethnicity comes from. Hopefully I'll be able to track her down and share this narrative with her.

Finally, much more about my DNA matches that go back through my great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson in Fjärås can be found on my website at:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/#Lars-Emil-Larsson>